

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EA-06 EB-07 /096 W

----- 063260

R 080630Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6573

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0625

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH

SUBJECT: LONDON PRESS REPORTS ON ALLEGED CLOSING OF
BOTSWANA-RHODESIA RAIL LINK

REF: LONDON 6870

1. EMBASSY HAS SPOKEN WITH ACTING SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MPUCHANE ON LONDON PRESS CLAIMS THAT BOTSWANA WOULD CLOSE RAIL LINK TO RHODESIA. MPUCHANE STATES THAT HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A PLANNED ACTION BY BOTSWANA AND FEELS THAT THIS STORY IS A RESULT OF DISCUSSION AT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE MEETING OF COMPENSATION PLAN FOR MOZAMBIQUE.

2. COMMENT: BOTSWANA IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND RAIL LINK (THE ONLY RAILROAD IN BOTSWANA) IS VITAL FOR BOTSWANA'S EXISTENCE. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE DIFFICULT FOR GOB TO MAKE SUCH A DECISION UNLESS UK, PRC OR OTHERS GAVE ASSURANCES THAT BOTSWANA'S ECONOMY WOULD NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY SUCH ACTION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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